

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on Soviet President Gorbachev's Meeting With Foreign Minister 'Aziz of Iraq *February 18, 1991*

President Bush appreciates having received a summary account from President Mikhail Gorbachev of his meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The So-

viets have asked that we treat the substance of this account as confidential; thus, we will not comment further on it. Our military campaign remains on schedule.

Exchange With Reporters on the Soviet Peace Proposal for the Persian Gulf Conflict *February 19, 1991*

Q. Mr. President, is the Soviet proposal acceptable to you?

The President. Let me just make one comment, and then I won't take any questions about it. But I do appreciate President Gorbachev's providing me a copy of his proposal—of the Iraqi proposal, or his proposal to Iraq actually—concerning the Gulf, the conflict there. And we provided last night comments to the Soviet Union.

Let me just reiterate. As far as I'm concerned, there are no negotiations. The goals have been set out. There will be no concessions—not going to give. And so on his proposal, President Gorbachev asked that I keep the details of it confidential. And I'm going to do that. I will respect that

request in the interest of thoroughly exploring the initiative.

But, very candidly—and I've been frank with him on this while expressing appreciation for his sending it to us—it falls well short of what would be required.

And I would leave it right there for now.

Q. Does that mean we're going to have a ground war?

The President. That means I'm going to leave it right there for now.

Note: The exchange began at 10:05 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. President Bush referred to President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Reports on Highway and Motor Vehicle Safety *February 19, 1991*

To the Congress of the United States:

It is my privilege to provide you with the annual reports on activities under the Highway Safety Act (23 U.S.C. 401 Note) and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 1408), both enacted in 1966. These reports provide an overview of our activities during calendar year 1989 and an overview of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's priority plan

for the next 3 years. The plan will be an evolving guideline for the agency's safety activities to improve motor vehicle and traffic safety over the next several years.

The plan includes motor vehicle rule-making on the crashworthiness of passenger cars, light trucks, and vans; vehicle rollover stability; and safety improvements in heavy trucks, school buses, and child safety seats.

It also calls for initiatives to promote